



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

January 2005

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE HOLDS STEADY IN DECEMBER

Important Note: Future **Kenosha MSA** (Kenosha County) industry employment statistics (as seen on page 2) will cease to exist in its current format due to its inclusion as a member county of the **Chicago-Naperville-Joliet-IL-IN-WI MSA**. Kenosha County data will still be made available resembling the current Walworth County dataset. This change will take effect with the March release of the January 2005 estimates. Kenosha County's labor force data availability and configuration will not be affected by the new metropolitan designation.

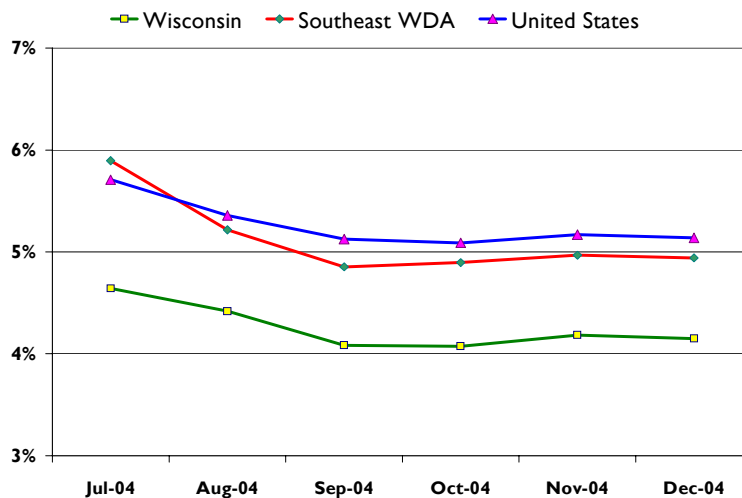
The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of the **Kenosha MSA** was 4.9 percent in December. This was unchanged compared to November. The annual comparison shows a labor force

with 1,300 additional employed and 200 fewer unemployed residents. The unemployment rate is three-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in December 2003.

Kenosha's total nonfarm wage and salary employment tally in December was 54,300 jobs. This total represented a net decrease of 400 jobs compared to November. The majority of Kenosha's industry sectors were unchanged over the month via employment. The only significant monthly employment increase was measured in the leisure and hospitality sector, which gained 100 jobs. The remaining industry sectors showed no change in their employment levels or had slight losses. Kenosha County's more significant monthly employment losses were measured in construction and education and health services, each declining by 200 jobs.

Kenosha's annual picture is not so flat like the monthly one and showing growth of 500 total jobs. This net growth in employment

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: December 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03
Labor force	3,092,171	3,112,894	3,065,115	84,559	85,236	83,437	92,733	93,829	92,714
Employed	2,963,830	2,982,624	2,915,293	80,440	81,036	79,123	87,216	88,193	86,263
Unemployed	128,341	130,270	149,822	4,119	4,200	4,314	5,517	5,636	6,451
% Unemployed	4.2%	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.9%	6.0%	7.0%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03	Dec-04	Nov-04	Dec-03
Labor force	55,726	56,714	55,421	233,018	235,779	231,572	147,877,000	148,246,000	146,501,000
Employed	53,845	54,837	53,382	221,501	224,066	218,768	140,278,000	140,581,000	138,556,000
Unemployed	1,881	1,877	2,039	11,517	11,713	12,804	7,599,000	7,665,000	7,945,000
% Unemployed	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.5%	5.1%	5.2%	5.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - December 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	Change since		Dec. 2004	Change since		Dec. 2004	Change since		Dec. 2004	Change since		Dec. 2004	Change since		Dec. 2004
	Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003		Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003		Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003		Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003		Nov. 2004	Dec. 2003	
All Industries	2,857.1	-15.7	63.2	54.3	-0.4	0.5	79.1	-0.7	0.6	42.1	-0.6	0.3	175.5	-1.7	1.4
Construction/Natural Resources	127.9	-6.3	2.4	2.2	-0.2	0.0	3.6	-0.2	0.0	1.8	-0.2	0.0	7.6	-0.6	0.0
Manufacturing	516.8	-3.0	15.4	9.2	-0.1	-0.6	19.6	0.0	0.3	8.9	0.0	0.0	37.7	-0.1	-0.3
Total Trade	461.5	0.8	14.9	9.4	0.0	0.6	12.3	-0.1	-0.3	6.0	0.0	0.1	27.7	-0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	342.2	1.0	8.7	7.3	0.0	0.5	9.3	-0.1	-0.3	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	119.3	-0.2	6.2	2.1	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.9	-0.3	1.7	1.5	0.0	-0.1	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	163.7	1.0	3.6	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.1
Education and Health Services	384.8	1.5	10.9	8.4	-0.2	0.1	10.6	0.0	0.1	3.8	-0.1	0.1	22.8	-0.3	0.3
Leisure and Hospitality	240.6	-0.3	3.6	6.0	0.1	0.3	6.3	0.0	0.1	6.4	-0.2	-0.2	18.7	-0.1	0.2
Info./Prof./Bus. and Other Services	438.3	-3.7	15.0	6.6	-0.1	0.4	11.7	-0.2	0.4	5.0	-0.1	0.0	23.3	-0.4	0.8
Information	48.7	0.3	-0.8	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	262.4	-3.5	18.1	3.4	-0.1	0.3	6.4	-0.2	0.4	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	127.2	-0.5	-2.3	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	413.6	-5.4	-4.3	9.2	0.1	-0.2	10.1	-0.2	-0.1	7.9	0.0	0.2	27.2	-0.1	-0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

was fueled by increases in trade employment and growth in leisure and hospitality and professional and business services employment. Manufacturing employment has decreased by 600 jobs.

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 5.9 percent. This is a slight monthly decrease of one-tenth of a percentage point. A much more significant annual rate decrease was measured. The December 2003 unemployment rate was 7.0 percent. The county has 900 more employed residents and 1,000 fewer unemployed compared to December 2003.

Racine County's nonfarm wage and salary employment total was 79,100 jobs in December. This is a net loss of 700 jobs since November. Most industry sectors' employment levels showed no change over the month and none of the sectors showed any significant increases. The overall, monthly job decrease was centered around a few industry sectors: professional and business services (-200 jobs), total government employment (-200 jobs), and construction employment (-200 jobs). These are the more significant employment de-

creases and are likely rooted in seasonal expectation. The loss of 100 jobs in retail trade in December was outside of normal expectation as there is normally a slight increase.

The county's annual comparison shows overall growth of 600 jobs compared to December 2003. The most significant job growth was in professional and business services and manufacturing gaining 400 jobs and 300 jobs, respectively. Retail trade and government employment were the only sectors to show an employment decline annually.

Walworth County's unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in December. It was the only regional county to show an increase in its rate over the month. The increase is within the seasonal realm for this county. The number of unemployed residents did not increase much since November, but its employed did decrease by almost 1,000, which is more than usual for December. Annually, Walworth's unemployment rate is three-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in December 2003 with 460 more employed and 150 fewer unemployed.

Walworth's total industry employment tally was 42,100 jobs in December. This total represents an overall decrease of 600 jobs over the month. Significant seasonal employment decreases of 200 jobs each were measured in the construction sector and in leisure and hospitality.

Overall growth of 300 jobs was measured compared to last December's job total. Government, total trade, and education and health services were responsible for most of this growth. Leisure and hospitality employment was the lone sector to show an annual decrease. The remaining sectors' employment levels did not change significantly.

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